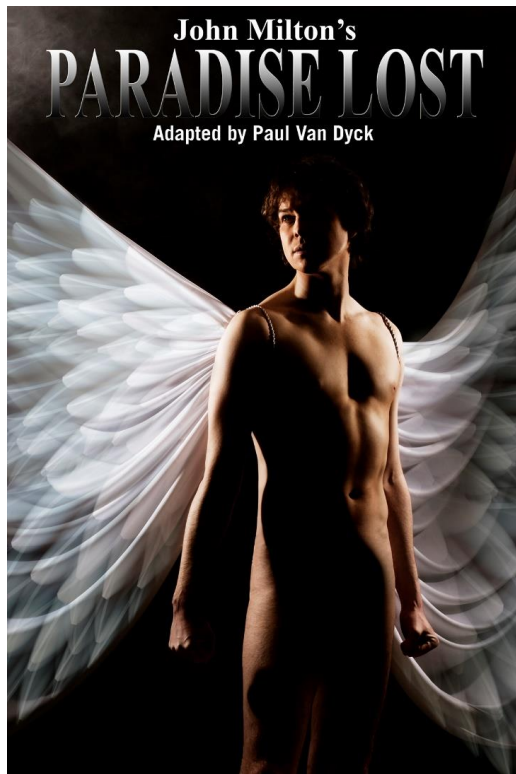


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Toronto, October 30, 2015

**\*\*Please add to all Event Listings\*\***

Media Contact: Jennifer Radford via [jennifer@thepublicitypod.com](mailto:jennifer@thepublicitypod.com) or 647-702-8963



Beyond the Mountain & Rabbit in a Hat present...

# John Milton's PARADISE LOST

Adapted by Paul Van Dyck

One performer. One hour. One story you will never forget. Fresh from **sold out runs** and **critical raves** from the **Edinburgh Fringe, New York Frigid, Atlantic Fringe** and **Just for Laughs Festivals**, Paul Van Dyck's extraordinary retelling of the fall of Adam and Eve is like nothing you have ever seen.

**Beyond the Mountain and Rabbit in a Hat** proudly present a one-man show for the ages: John Milton's **PARADISE LOST**, adapted and performed by **Paul Van Dyck, November 25 – December 6** at the **Theatre Passe Muraille Backspace**. Tickets are on sale via [www.artsboxoffice.ca](http://www.artsboxoffice.ca), 416-504-7529, or at the door.

**Evocative puppets, stunning computer animation energized by a Rock'n'Roll soundscape, and the skills of a master storyteller** weave together to bring to life Milton's astonishing tale. The story begins moments after the battle of heaven, as Satan finds himself and his followers cast into hell. Full of rage at his banishment, Satan travels to

the Garden of Eden to exact his revenge upon God's new favourites: Adam and Eve, to whom He has given the power to rule over all creation.

***"This is the best theater – the most relevant to our time, the most uplifting, the most artistic, simultaneously the most esoteric and exoteric, visually, aurally, and intellectually stimulating – that I have seen in a long time."***

— W. Kenton, *Cultural Capitol* (New York City)

**Created, adapted and performed** by multi-talented Montreal actor/director/playwright **Paul Van Dyck** (2013 Neil Munro Intern Director at the Shaw Festival; Oroonoko - Winner: best director, Montreal English Theatre Award; *The Harvester* - Winner: Best Drama, Atlantic Fringe Festival), **PARADISE LOST** won Best Production at the New York Frigid (Fringe) Festival and the Atlantic Fringe Festival. Van Dyck and the production were awarded with the prestigious 'Revelation of the Year' Award by the Montreal English Critics Circle (MECCA).

Visual effects artist **Jeremy Eliosoff** — known for his work on such **major motion pictures as X-Men: Days of Future Past, 300, and Watchmen**—designs **hauntingly beautiful special effects** for the production while puppet designer **Lyne Paquette** (founder/Artistic Director, Talisman Theatre; Stratford Festival) provides the expressive puppets manipulated by Van Dyck to incredible dramatic and emotional effect.

Lighting Design by five-time Montreal English Critics Circle Award nominee **Jody Burkholder** (*Jim Burke's Cornered; Heaven, Fallen Angel Productions; Just for Laughs Comedy Festival*), and Stage Management by emerging artist **Sara Rodriguez** (*Butcher, Centaur Theatre; The Seagull, Segal Centre for Performing Arts; The Medea Effect, Talisman*). Producer, Production Manager, and longtime collaborator **Danielle A. Caddell** (*Rialto Theatre, Uncalled For, Rabbit in a Hat, Geordie Productions, and MainLine Theatre*) helms the whole project for **Beyond The Mountain Productions**.

**Beyond the Mountain** is a non-profit Montreal-based theatre company presenting live performances combined with new technology in order to internationally disseminate works by Montreal artists. By touring emerging artists, the company aims to raise Montreal's cultural profile and aid its artists to create a larger impact on the international art scene. More info: [www.beyondthemountain.ca](http://www.beyondthemountain.ca)

#### Performance information for **PARADISE LOST**:

**Venue:** Theatre Passe Muraille Backspace, 16 Ryerson Ave, Toronto.

**Performances:** **November 25 - December 6** (Preview Wed Nov 25, Opening Night Thurs Nov 26)  
Wed – Sat @ **7:30pm\*\*** + Sat & Sun **matinees @ 2pm**  
**\*\*Please note early curtain time**

**Tickets:** Reg **\$25** / Arts Workers **\$20** / Preview and Matinee **\$15**  
via [www.artsboxoffice.ca](http://www.artsboxoffice.ca), 416-504-7529, or at the door.



*John Milton's PARADISE LOST*

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## **CAST & CREATIVE TEAM**

<b>Paul Van Dyck</b>	Created, Performed, & Adapted by
<b>Jeremy Eliosoff</b>	Visual Effects Artist
<b>Lyne Paquette</b>	Puppet Design & Creation
<b>Jody Burkholder</b>	Lighting Design
<b>Sara Rodriguez</b>	Stage Management
<b>Danielle A. Caddell</b>	Producer/Production Manager
<b>Jennifer Radford</b> (of ThePublicityPod.com )	Publicity



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## CAST & CREATIVE TEAM BIOS



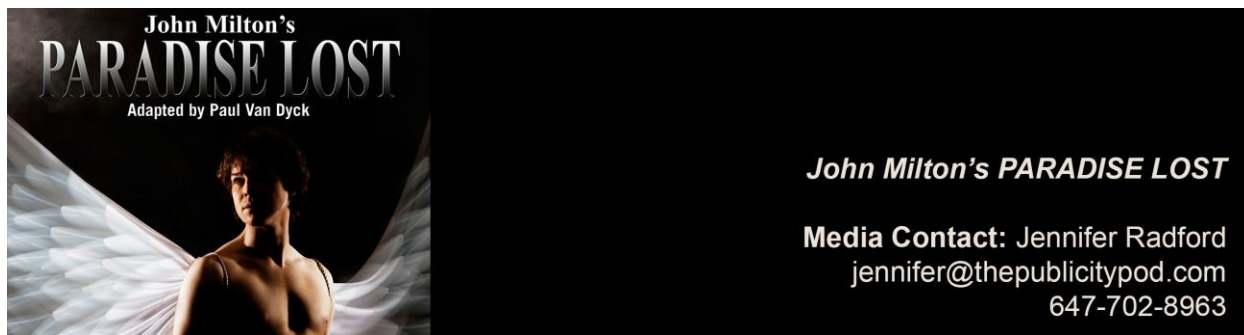
### **PAUL VAN DYCK** **Creator/Performer**

A graduate of Queen's University, Paul Van Dyck is a Montreal based playwright, director, and performer. His work has been produced in the United States, the United Kingdom, and throughout Canada. He has received numerous awards for his plays including; *The Revelation Award*, Montreal English Critics Circle; *Outstanding Direction (Oroonoko)*, Montreal English Theatre Awards; *Best Production (Paradise Lost)*, New York Frigid Festival and Atlantic Fringe Festival; *Best Production (Miss Sugarpuss Must Die!)*, Montreal Fringe Festival; and *Best Drama (The Harvester)*, Atlantic Fringe Festival. In 2013, Paul participated in the Neil Munro Intern Directors Project at the Shaw Festival. Most recently he directed *Social Studies* at Montreal's Centaur Theatre and wrote and directed *The Nisei & The Narrauks* for the Montréal, Arts Interculturels. He is presently the Artistic Director of Rabbit in a Productions and the National Forum Representative of Quebec for the Playwrights Guild of Canada. Next, he'll present his award-winning western, *Blood Wild*, at The Next Stage Theatre Festival followed by an operatic workshop performance of his libretto, *The Harvester*, with FAWN Chamber Creative in Toronto and Ottawa. He is presently the Artistic Director of Rabbit in a Productions.



### **DANIELLE A. CADDELL** **Producer/Production Manager**

Danielle is a producer/stage manager and the Artistic Director of Beyond the Mountain Productions. Some of the notable companies she has worked with include; Rialto Theatre, Uncalled For, Geordie Productions, and MainLine Theatre. Career highlights include; ASM on Infinitheatre's award winning *Blessed are they*, becoming a board member of the Quebec Drama Federation, and this summer getting to work for Just for Laughs as an Artist coordinator at Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier



**JEREMY ELIOSOFF**  
***Visual Effects Artist***

Jeremy Eliosoff was born in Montreal. He received a BFA from Concordia University's Studio Arts program (2002), and a diploma in Computer Animation from Sheridan College (2003). Since then, he has been making visual effects for television and films (*X-Men: Days of Future Past*, *Fantastic Four*, *300*, *Watchmen*), and he has recently produced computer generated projections for live theatre. He resumed his neglected painting practice in 2010 and has since exhibited in many galleries, cafes and restaurants.



**JODY BURKHOLDER**  
***Lighting Design***

Jody Burkholder is a Yellowknifer living in Montreal. This is the eighth creation he has collaborated on with Rabbit in a Hat as Production/Lighting Designer, most recently with the North American premiere of Jim Burke's *Cornered* and Paul Van Dyck's *Blood Wild* in Montreal. He has been nominated five times in the last four years for the Best Lighting Design at the Montreal MECCA awards, winning in 2008 for George F. Walker's *Heaven*, with Fallen Angel Productions. He has also had the pleasure of working with organizations and individual artists such as Catherine Kidd, The Just for Laughs Comedy Festival, Pop Montreal, Tableau D'Hote Theatre, Concordia University Dance, The Centaur Theatre, Circuit-Est Centre de Choreographie, and the extraordinary, unforgettable Miss Sugarpuss. He sits on the Board of Directors for MainLine Theatre, producers of the St. Ambroise Fringe Montreal. He does it all for Poe.





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**LYNE PAQUETTE**  
***Puppet Design & Creation***

Lyne is a founding member of Talisman Theatre. A graduate of the National Theatre School, theatre design is Lyne's second career. She continues to develop her theatre training with puppetry workshops and recently completed a three-month internship at Michael Curry Design. Since 2004 Lyne has designed for many theatre, dance, and operetta productions in Montreal. Prior to that Lyne was an Assistant Designer at the Stratford Shakespeare Festival. She has designed set and costumes for Talisman productions since 2005. festival, and the Summerworks performance festival. She has designed set and

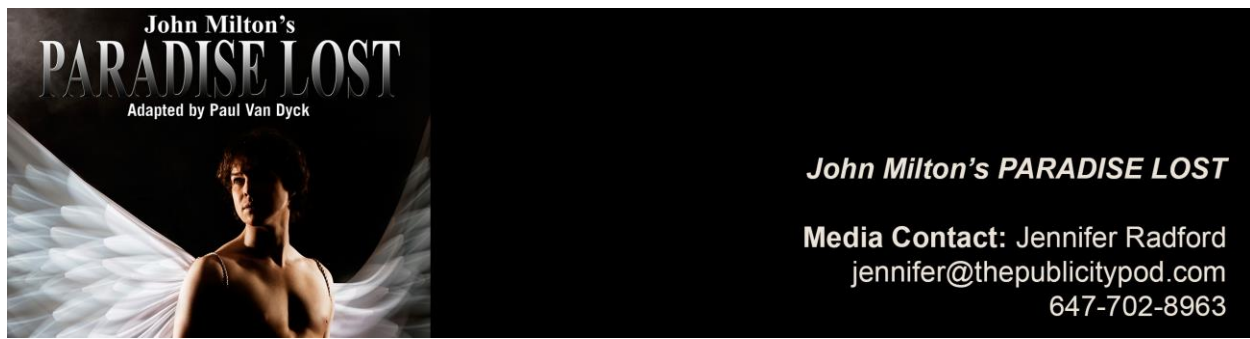
costumes for Talisman productions since 2005.



**SARA RODRIGUEZ**  
***Stage Manager***

After multiple locations, Sara is thrilled to be bringing *Paradise Lost* to Toronto! Other career highlights include *Butcher* (Centaur Theatre), *The Seagull* (Segal Centre), *Xersès* (Opera da Camera), *Ain't Misbehavin'* (Segal Centre / Copa de Oro), *Blood Wild* (Rabbit in a Hat Productions) *Les Vikings Symphoniques* (Buzz Cuivres/Buzz Brass-Sherbrooke, Quebec City), *The Medea Effect* (Talisman Theatre-Montreal), *Cornered* (Infini theatre- Montreal), *Milford Haven*, a video installation (Concordia University-Montreal), *The Harvester* (Rabbit in a Hat Productions-Montreal), *For Home and Country* (Assistant Director

– John Abbott College), *Die Fledermaus* (Director – Montreal West End Operatic Society). She has also been teaching and directing kids and teens at the Segal Centre Academy since 2012. In 2014, Sara developed a intensive musical theatre program, which she has been running at the Y Country Camp since.



## CREATOR'S NOTES

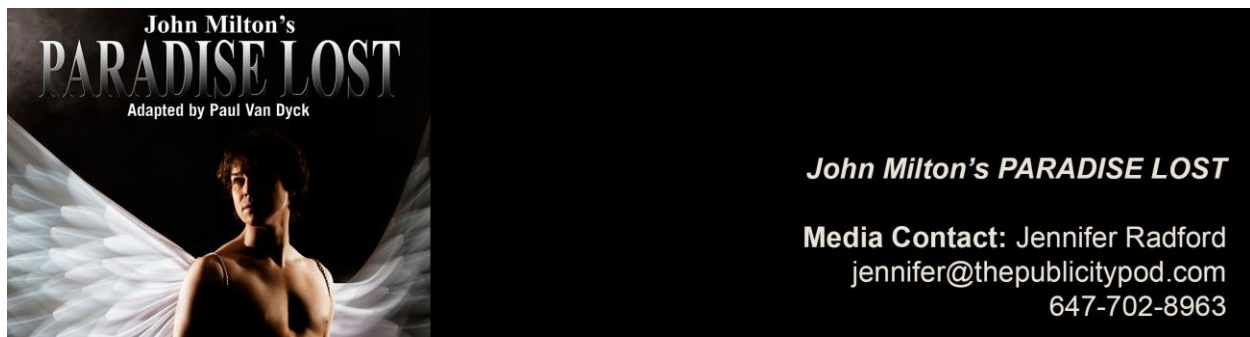
It was on a beach in Ghana that I first read John Milton's *Paradise Lost*. I had been traveling in Africa for several months by that point and was in need of English reading material. The rustic beach hotel I was staying at had a small book exchange consisting of a couple of dated guide books, some French romance novels, and a seemingly unopened copy of *Paradise Lost*. I thought to myself "*Perfect, this is English... sort of.*"

I wasn't far into the poem before recognizing its potential as a performance piece. I later found out that Milton himself, in an attempt to emulate Shakespeare, originally intended the poem as a theatrical piece but quickly found the scope of Heaven and Hell and everything in between far too vast for the stage. Today however, with the use of computer animation, we can readily bring to life the Demons of Milton's imagination.

As I set about adapting this piece, which included auditing Milton Studies courses at Concordia University and meeting with Milton scholars from around the world, it became my hope that this play would be well received by both those who know and love the poem, as well as those experiencing it for the first time. It has been a great delight to see that goal realized in audiences near and far.

Personally, I have little faith that any of this story is true, but that doesn't mean there isn't truth in the story; the struggles that these characters face, the temptation to be something greater than ourselves, the disillusionment at the loss of innocence, and the redemption found in love and charity all exist in our lives. Though rooted in ancient mythologies, I believe this story is a timeless metaphor for the human experience.

*Paul Van Dyck.*



## PREVIOUS PRESS FOR *PARADISE LOST*:

### AWARDS:

- Outstanding Show award – Paradise Lost (Atlantic Fringe)
- Fringe Hits award – Paradise Lost (Atlantic Fringe)
- Best of the Fest award – Paradise Lost (Frigid Festival New York)
- Sold Out award – Paradise Lost (Frigid Festival New York)
- Revelation of the Year – Paul Van Dyck (Montreal English Critics Circle Award)

### NOMINATIONS

- Best Text- Paradise Lost (Montreal English Critics Circle Award)
- Best Lighting - Paradise Lost (Montreal English Critics Circle Award)

### REVIEWS:

#### MONTREAL

*“Inspired... Intense... It’s great!”*

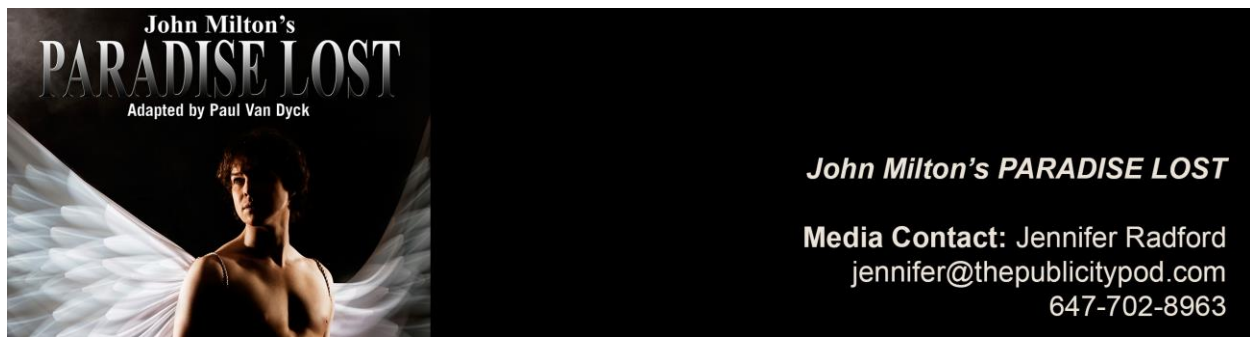
— Jeanette Kelly, Homerun, CBC Radio

*“Montreal actor/director Paul Van Dyck has come up with a dazzling new solo performance art piece, complete with slick computer graphics and Adam and Eve puppets, that strikes with the force of devilish revelation. His line delivery offers an audacious re-interpretation of the text that makes Milton sound relevant to today. Don't hesitate to buy a ticket...The amazing thing about Van Dyck's piece is that it reinterprets Milton without radical deconstruction... Judging from his virtuoso performance in Paradise Lost, Van Dyck's career could be about to take flight.”*

— Pat Donnelly -The Gazette

*“Van Dyck and his team spice it up... It’s a very ambitious production that is not as much about entertainment as it is about serious theatre.”*

— Julia Gerke -The Suburban



***“Van Dyck’s take on Paradise Lost stays the epic course.”***

— Brett Hooton, Hour

***“How many one-man plays can boast impressive CGI, puppets and a bona fide script by John Milton?”***

— Christopher Olson, The Link

***“... after seeing Paul Van Dyck's adaptation of epic poem Paradise Lost, there's no doubt that Satan is the original rock star”***

— Emily Manuel, The Concordia Online

## HALIFAX

***“The intimacy and depth of emotion and connection he is able to weave with two inanimate objects is nothing short of magic. This one is not to be missed. Run, don’t walk.”***

– Amanda Campbell, The Way I See It

***“Although the price to pay might be a small one, it’d still be a sin to miss Paradise Lost.”***

– Stephen Cooke, The Chronicle Herald

***“... a stirring, visually-astounding, memorable piece of theatre that I predict will be among the best Fringe plays I see — ever.”***

– Kate Watson - The Coast

## NEW YORK CITY

***“...he’s an extraordinary theatrical artist, and this 50-minute intimate epic is sure to be one of the highlights of this year’s festival.”***

— Martin Denton, nytheatre.com

***“I would definitely strongly recommend Paul Van Dyck’s adaptation of Paradise Lost...”***

—Stephen Tortora-Lee, The Happiest Medium

***“...Van Dyck turns an arduous English literature class reading into sexy, sinful fun.”***

— Adrienne Urbanski, Theatre Is Easy

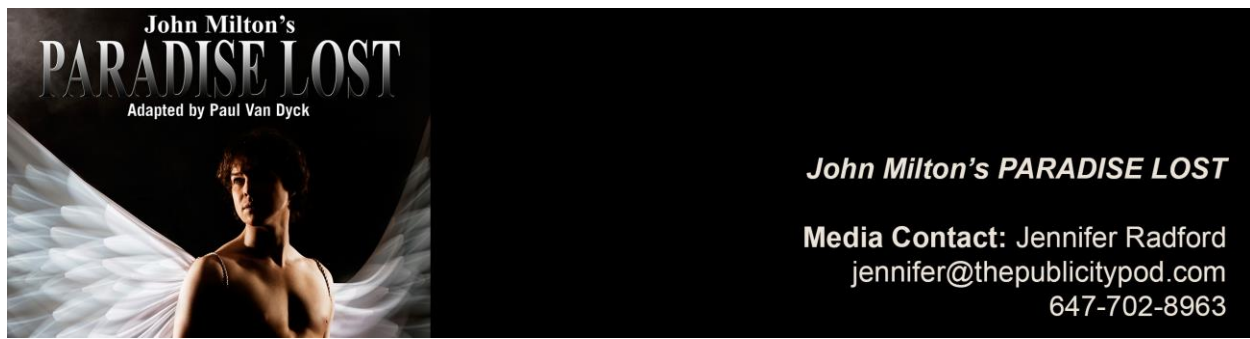
***“...this is the best theater – the most relevant to our time, the most uplifting, the most artistic, simultaneously the most esoteric and exoteric, visually, aurally, and intellectually stimulating that I have seen in a long time.”***

— W. Kenton, Cultural Capitol

***“I highly recommend that you see this play while you can, and I hope we will be seeing more of Paul Van Dyck and this inspired show.”***

— Byrne Harrison, StageBuzz.com





## EDINBURGH

★★★★★ *“Paul van Dyck brings imagination and passion to this polished one-man telling of John Milton's Paradise Lost. Using puppetry, computer visuals, music and an incredible variety of voices, he is a masterful storyteller who makes Milton's 17th century epic accessible and relevant...Portraying Satan at the counsel, van Dyck transforms into a slickly media-savvy modern-day politician, addressing the audience and echoing the text's political roots by bringing contemporary relevance to Milton's disappointment at the Cromwellian revolution turned sour....Eve's temptation by the inventively designed snake is delightfully creepy, and the sexual desire between Adam and Eve visceral and believable.”*

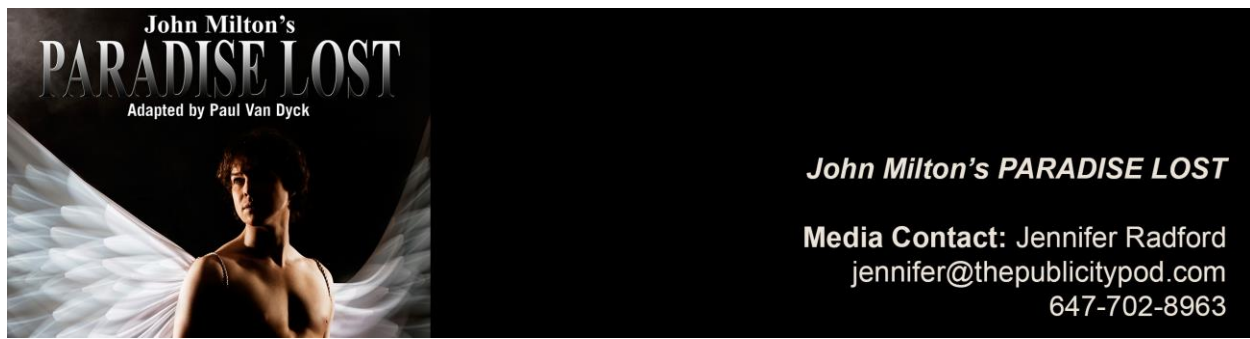
— Alice Quine, BroadwayBaby

★★★★★ *“Well adapted; presenting the most interesting and dramatic parts of Milton's poetry...The language is stunning, and in this performance is given the respect and clarity of delivery it deserves. Van Dyck does a commendable job of playing all parts...The use of puppetry was very sensitive and successful, and Van Dyck manages to extract a lot of humour and pathos out of such an expansive, and some would argue, untameable text”*

— Emma Hardy, PlaysToSee.com

*“Paul Van Dyck tackles John Milton's epic poem – about Satan travelling to the Garden of Eden – with gusto, carving out an easily digestible hour-long show...A charismatic and flawless rendition of the material from performer and puppeteer Van Dyck, who should be commended for his performance”*

— James McColl, ThreeWeeks



## BEYOND THE MOUNTAIN PRODUCTIONS

**Beyond the Mountain** was first launched July 5th 2011 at the Rialto Theatre in Montreal. The launch party itself was host to burlesque Dancers, a Beijing Opera troupe, Stand-Up comedians, folk & jazz bands, an Opera Singer, a scene from an upcoming musical as well as a never-seen-before video Sketch from the award winning improv group Uncalled For.

Our first production was Paul Van Dyck's **Paradise Lost** at both the DANspace & Neptune Theatre in Halifax for the Atlantic Fringe Festival in September 2011, where it won both the Outstanding Show award & Fringe Hits award. After its award winning and critical success in Halifax we went on to produce **Paradise Lost** repeatedly. First as a fundraiser where we raised over \$500 for the Montreal Children's Hospital at the Segal Centre in December 2011, then in January 2012 at the Kraine Theatre in New York City as part of the APAP (The Association of Performing Arts Presenters) conference.

Since then we've brought productions to Toronto (**Bard Fiction** Toronto - Fringe July 2014), Minneapolis (**Now and at the Hour** - Minnesota Fringe 2013), Halifax (**The Harvester** - Atlantic Fringe 2012 & **The No Bull\$#!% History of Canada** - Atlantic Fringe 2014), Saint John (**The No Bull\$#!% History of Canada** – Fundy Fringe 2014), Edmonton (**The No Bull\$#!% History of Canada** – Edmonton Fringe 2015) and brought two shows in 2014 to Edinburgh Paul Van Dyck's **Paradise Lost** and Christian Cagigal's **Obscura**.

In our four year history we have had three Fundraisers for the Montreal Children's Hospital, awarded three independent companies at the Montreal Fringe and brought three productions into Montreal from outside including producing the amazing **We Walk Among You** by Toronto's own Artichoke Heart Collective at Mainline Theatre in November 2014

Our awards include:


- Outstanding Show award – **Paradise Lost** (Atlantic Fringe 2011)
- Fringe Hits award – **Paradise Lost** (Atlantic Fringe 2011)
- Outstanding Show award – **The Harvester** (Atlantic Fringe 2012)
- Fringe Hits award – **The Harvester** (Atlantic Fringe 2012)

[www.beyondthemountain.ca](http://www.beyondthemountain.ca)

Twitter: @MountainBeyond

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/Beyond-the-Mountain-222013214492808/](https://www.facebook.com/Beyond-the-Mountain-222013214492808/)

John Milton's  
**PARADISE LOST**  
Adapted by Paul Van Dyck



*John Milton's PARADISE LOST*

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## PHOTOGRAPHS

Promotional photos for media use are available for download here:

[www.flickr.com/photos/130413460@N04/sets/72157660172661306/with/21795189363/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/130413460@N04/sets/72157660172661306/with/21795189363/)

